

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling in a predetermined alignment a load beam and flexible circuit comprising a laminate of trace conductors and an insulative film of a disk drive suspension having proximate and distal ends, including defining first plural locator structures in said load beam comprising spaced and longitudinally axially aligned raised sections raised out of the general plane of said load beam, said raised sections comprising opposed sloping portions and a top portion ~~generally coplanar with said load beam and supported by said sloping portions~~, defining cooperating second plural locator structures in said flexible circuit, juxtaposing at a common plane said suspension load beam and said flexible circuit, and intersecting said first plural locator structures with said second plural locator structures across said common plane to locate said load beam and flexible circuit in said predetermined alignment.

2. (Previously Presented) The assembly method according to claim 1, including also extending said first plural locator structures through said common plane, and receiving said first plural locator structures with said second plural locator structures.

3. (Original) The assembly method according to claim 1, including also fixing said flexible circuit to said load beam in locations spaced from said first and second plural locator structures.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling in a predetermined alignment a load beam and flexible circuit of a disk drive suspension having proximate and distal ends, including juxtaposing at a common plane [a] the suspension load beam and [a] the flexible circuit comprising a laminate of trace conductors, an insulative film, and a metal layer, and intersecting first plural locator structures on said load beam with second plural locator structures on said flexible circuit across said common plane to locate said load beam and flexible circuit in said predetermined alignment.

5. (Previously Presented) The assembly method according to claim 4, including also locating said first and second plural locator structures at both said suspension proximate and distal ends.

6. (Previously Presented) A method of assembling in a predetermined alignment a load beam and flexible circuit of a disk drive suspension having proximate and distal ends, including juxtaposing at a common plane a suspension load beam and a flexible circuit comprising a laminate of trace conductors and an insulative film, providing first plural locator structures on said load beam and second plural locator structures on said flexible circuit, locating said first and second plural locator structures at both said suspension proximate end and distal ends, and intersecting said first plural locator structures with said second plural locator structures across said common plane to locate said load beam and flexible circuit in said predetermined alignment.

7. (Previously Presented) The assembly method according to claim 6, including also forming in said load beam longitudinally spaced and axially aligned raised sections

raised out of the general plane of said load beam to define said first plural locator structures.

8. (Original) The assembly method according to claim 7, including also orienting said raised load beam sections normal to the longitudinal axis of said load beam.

9. (Original) The assembly method according to claim 6, including also providing a metal layer in said flexible circuit laminate, and forming raised section-receiving recesses in said flexible circuit metal layer to form said second plural locator structures.

10. (Previously Presented) The assembly method according to claim 6, including also axially aligning along the longitudinal axes of said load beam and flexible circuit said proximate and distal first plural locator structures and said second plural locator structures as first and second pairs of locator structures, and intersecting a third pair of said plural locator structures on said load beam and flexible circuit respectively across said common plane simultaneously with intersecting of said first and second plural locator structures, said third pair of locator structures being laterally offset from said longitudinal axes of said load beam and flexible circuit.

11. (Previously Presented) The assembly method according to claim 10, including also providing a metal layer on said flexible circuit laminate, and attaching said metal layer to said load beam in locations spaced from said first plural locator structures.

Claims 12-19 (Cancelled)